

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday July 24th 2007

San Andreas Program of the ARC of Amador and Calaveras Counties
San Andreas CA

Board Members Present:

Jill Ames
Robert Balderama
Gary Del Nero
Mary Dye
Brad Putz
Mollie Rogers
John Lundberg
Anna Newman

Staff Present:

Kathy Barnes-Executive Director
Neil Fromm-Community Program Specialist II
George Lewis-Community Program Specialist II

Facilitators:

David Simmerly
Paula Short-Lund

Board Members Absent:

Traci Trujillo
Hanna Kassis
Deirdre Wright

Guests:

Peggy Cunningham

Call to order and introductions:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 by Gary Del Nero the Chairperson. The Board and public introduced themselves. Mr. Del Nero announced consideration of approval of the agenda and minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Putz moved, Mr. Lundberg seconded. After discussion, the motion passed without opposition.

Public Comment:

Peggy Cunningham presented a slide show that was recorded by program participants and staff on DVD. She spoke of using that technology to assist people who wish to present progress on Individual Service Plan goals. Also the local TV station has provided training to staff on recording techniques and the plan is train program participants and to capture upcoming events such as the planned play "Grease" on video or slide and present this with narration by program participants on the TV channel later in the year. Mr. Balderama asked if there were ticket sales planned for the play and Ms. Cunningham responded that ticket sales were not planned at this time but that donations would be accepted to support the Calaveras chapter of People First. Ms. Barnes commented that the Area Board would be happy to include notice of the upcoming play on the AB6 web site and Mr. Putz spoke of spreading the news to the Self Advocacy Council.

SB1270:

Mr. Putz shared that the same group that had previously considered the goals of SB 1270 were continuing to meet with the objective of improving those goals. Ms. Barnes noted that the Area Board plans on reinforcing the goals of SB 1270 through presentations in the fall to Educational CACs. Ms. Barnes also said that the Area Board has been working toward organizing a local Your Day Your Way event in November where progress across the state will be discussed and ideas will be shared by people who helped develop SB 1270. Ms. Barnes asked about Board member efforts to support the

goals of SB 1270 while noting increased self advocacy efforts in the mountain counties. Mr. Del Nero said that the efforts of the new Transition Task Force in Stanislaus County were an example of support of the SB 1270 goals. Ms. Barnes spoke of hearing that Howard Training Center in Modesto is fielding an increased volume of work orders.

Mini Grant Cycle 2007 2008:

Mr. Putz described an anticipated grant amount of \$10,000.00 to be available for distribution in this grant cycle. Ms. Barnes shared that the largest individual grant amount available would be \$4999.99 due to provisions of the federal contracting process. The Board discussed how the monies would be used and whether scholarships would be funded through grant funds. Mr. Putz noted that the State Council recently agreed to take back scholarship approval while Ms. Barnes pointed out that the Area Board retains the ability to approve the use of these funds for mini grant proposals or scholarship at the discretion of the Board. Ms. Barnes asked the Board how to best consider the areas to target for grant application and the best way to target those funds. Ms. Barnes noted that any mini grant expenditures must be tied to provisions in the current State plan. Mr. Lundberg shared that he favored plan proposals targeting health concerns including nutrition and affordable housing. Mr. Balderama shared he favors proposals targeting specific groups. Mr. Putz noted there was nothing in the plan that addressed the needs of individuals who were blind or deaf. Mr. Putz said he believed public awareness to be an important topic to be addressed through mini grant funds.

A member of the public, Karen Pakarcic of Calaveras First 5, said that she believed housing and health care to be significant concerns for all people in the mountain counties and that First 5 is currently training the public in nutrition and exercise and that health literacy is a goal of her organization. She also said that there needs to be more emphasis in public awareness messages that portray the disabled in everyday situations working and recreating side by side with people who do not have disabilities. Mr. Balderama spoke of needing to encourage new people to enter into the field of advocacy. Ms. Barnes asked if Ms. Rogers feels she can bring the issue of affordable housing to the Calaveras County People First Chapter and encourage the Chapter to advocate for positive change at upcoming Calaveras County Supervisors meetings. Ms. Rogers agreed that she can pursue this issue.

Conversation shifted as to how to best address the issue of determining topic areas for grant application and how to best process applications. Mr. Lundberg suggested a sub committee meet to consider topic areas and to design grant application criteria. Mr. Del Nero agreed noting that the sub committee meeting could be open to all Board members wishing to attend. Ms. Barnes shared that the grant applications were more complicated than before as Federal forms are now necessary for application in the current grant cycle but these complications will be addressed in a cover letter accompanying the proposal requests. Ms. Barnes noted the need to move forward as quickly as possible with the process due to the differences in State and Federal fiscal years limiting the available time in the grant cycle. The Board was in agreement that 2 meetings by the sub committee would be necessary before the next board meeting. The first meeting will be to determine topics for the grant proposals and to craft the requests for proposals with the next meeting considering the proposals submitted to the Board on the basis of merit. The sub committee would then make recommendations to the Board for the member's consideration at the next Board meeting. The first sub committee meeting is scheduled for August 2nd between 3:30 and 5:00 at a San Andreas location to be announced. The second meeting schedule will be determined during the first meeting.

Board Member Reports:

State Council Update: Mr. Putz spoke of the state council changing some bylaws to extend officer appointments from 1 year to 2 years and a change in name of the SAQ committee to the legislative committee. Also he shared that California State Council will be hosting the national conference for State Councils on the 8th and 9th of October in San Diego at a cost of \$300.00 per person. Participation of the Area Board executive directors and one board member per area board will be funded by the State Council. Mr. Putz also noted a recent Area Board 11 conference on disaster preparedness as part of the state plan goals and Ms. Barnes shared that the Area Board 6 is planning a similar event for September 21st.

VMRC Consumer Services Committee: No report

VMRC Resource Development Committee: No report.

Calaveras County Transportation: Mr. Lundberg said that he was satisfied with the results of advocacy in regard to transportation concerns of the developmentally disabled population in Calaveras County but that he had not heard details about follow-up effectiveness. He also shared that he was encouraged by collaboration between mental health, the sheriff's department and the court in working toward setting up a mental health court to consider legal issues of those with mental health diagnosis including individuals with developmental disabilities.

Other Member Activities: Ms. Rogers shared that she had recently attended a self advocacy meeting in Stockton. She also read and distributed to the Board a typed list of observations and concerns in regard to Calaveras County. (Please see attachment). Mr. Del Nero shared that the transitional task force in Stanislaus County was successful in that it brought people together who are in positions to support change and to consider improvement in services. Mr. Putz spoke of attending the People First convention in Sacramento accompanied by Ms. Ames and that he had been part of a team that delivered information on anger management at that convention.

Staff Report: Ms. Barnes reported that George Lewis is once again working as a regular employee of the Area Board 6 and that the LQA project is on schedule. She shared that the period for public comment on the new Department of Rehabilitation rules concerning self-employment is past noting restrictive provisions are present in both the current and proposed regulations. She spoke of the Area Board possibly taking positions on legislation at some future date. Ms. Barnes noted that a pilot project is in the works for October in Stanislaus County to train advocates in the use of the web site DB 101.org and that the Area Board is supporting this effort. She also shared that the BSG report would be presented in detail at the Board meeting scheduled for September.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:17.

Report by Mollie Rogers

Most kids in Calaveras County can play in the parks, and do what any kids do.

But if they have a disability, they sometimes can't get through the sand, or play sports.

Sometimes families can't get the busses to go to their homes.

Sometimes the busses are late or their hours change.

We do not have Special Olympics for kids, but we have bowling for the ARC.

It is hard for their parents to find child care.

Sometimes it is hard to find special doctors or nurses. Sometimes families have to go very far for medical care.

We are lucky that Dr. Thompson is opening an Autism Clinic.

I attended a Self-Advocacy meeting in Stockton with ARC staff and friends. We listened to speakers who talked about mini-grants. We are thinking of ideas for mini-grants.

I think self-advocacy meetings at the ARC are almost like People First. We talk about what we need in Calaveras.

We need the busses to pick us up at our homes.

We need our own places to live and more apartments that we can afford.

We need places to eat and work, like In-and-Out.

We need places we can shop.

We need a chance to take vacations with our friends.

I would like to help make these things happen in Calaveras County.